

2022 MISSOURI BUSINESSES BY SIZE

MARCH 2024

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES BY SIZE

Tracking Missouri businesses by employment size can be used to identify which size of business employs the most people, how Missouri businesses range by the size of employment and average wages, and what is the typical size of businesses by industry.

Missouri had **217,818 private sector employers** in the first quarter of 2022*. Small businesses comprised a majority of this total, with **79.8 percent** of Missouri businesses employing fewer than 10 people. Firms employing 1 to 49 workers made up **96.4 percent** of all businesses in Missouri.

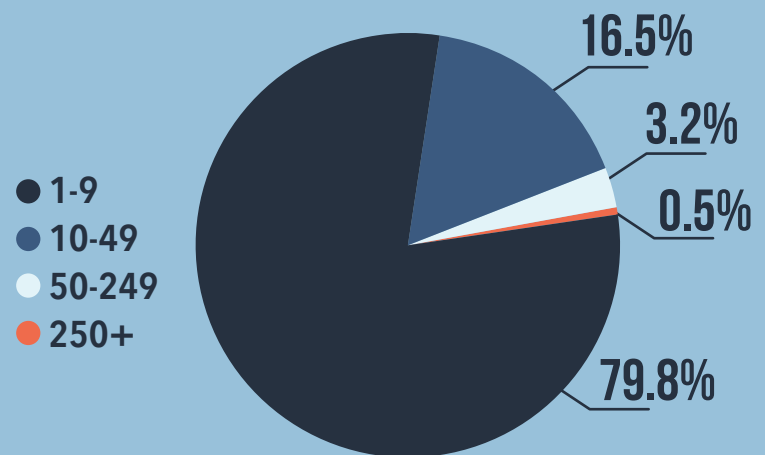
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

1-4
5-9
10-19
20-49
50-99
100-249
250-499
500-999
1000+
TOTAL

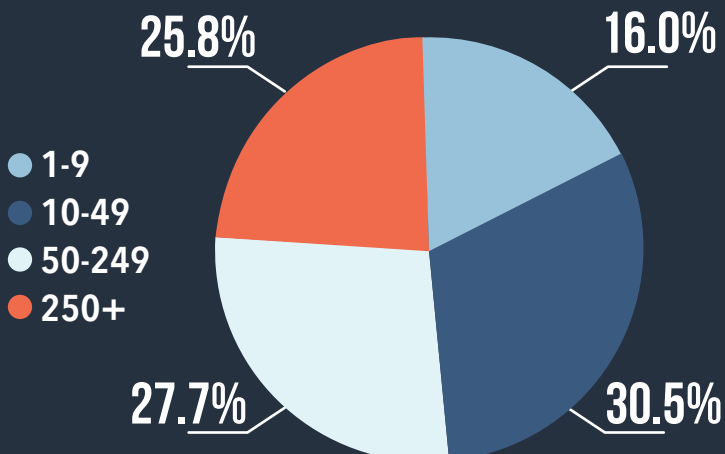
NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS

145,490
28,362
21,336
14,699
4,642
2,319
662
202
106
217,818

COMBINED PERCENT OF BUSINESSES BY SIZE



EMPLOYMENT PERCENT BY BUSINESS SIZE

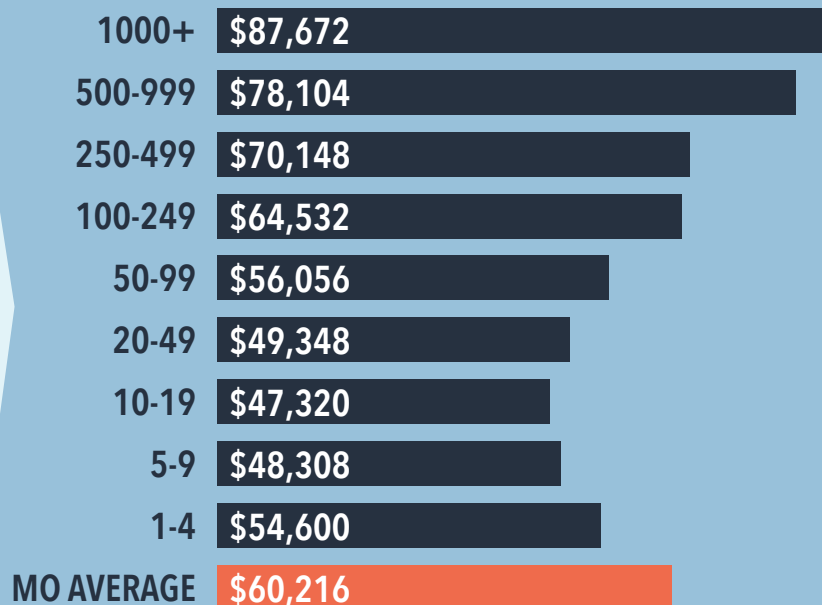


PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYMENT BY BUSINESS SIZE

Small businesses in Missouri employ a significant portion of the private sector workforce. Private sector employees who work for a small business (fewer than 50 employees) comprise **46.5 percent** of the workforce. Medium-sized businesses (50-249 employees) employ **27.7 percent** of the private sector workforce, while large employers (250 or more) employ **25.8 percent**.

WAGES BY BUSINESS SIZE

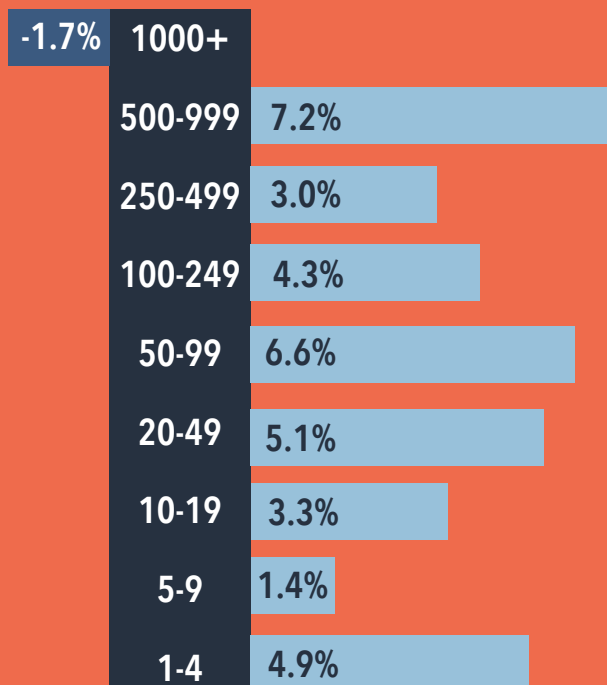
Wages were calculated using first quarter data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The average first quarter annual wage in Missouri for 2022, for all private industries regardless of business size, was **\$60,216**. Wages were highest at businesses that employed 1,000 or more people, with average wages equaling **\$87,672**. Establishments that employed 10 to 19 people had the lowest average wage at **\$47,320**. More than one-third of establishments that employed 10 to 19 people were in the *Retail Trade and Accommodation and Food Services* industries.



2022 EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY BUSINESS SIZE

Employment levels were calculated using first quarter data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program. Most businesses experienced an increase in employment from 2021 to 2022. Businesses that employed 1,000 or more employees experienced a negative employment change of **1.7 percent**. Businesses that employed 500-999 people had the largest growth of **7.2 percent**. Overall, Missouri businesses gained 86,962 employees between first quarter 2021 and first quarter 2022.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGE (%) 2021-2022

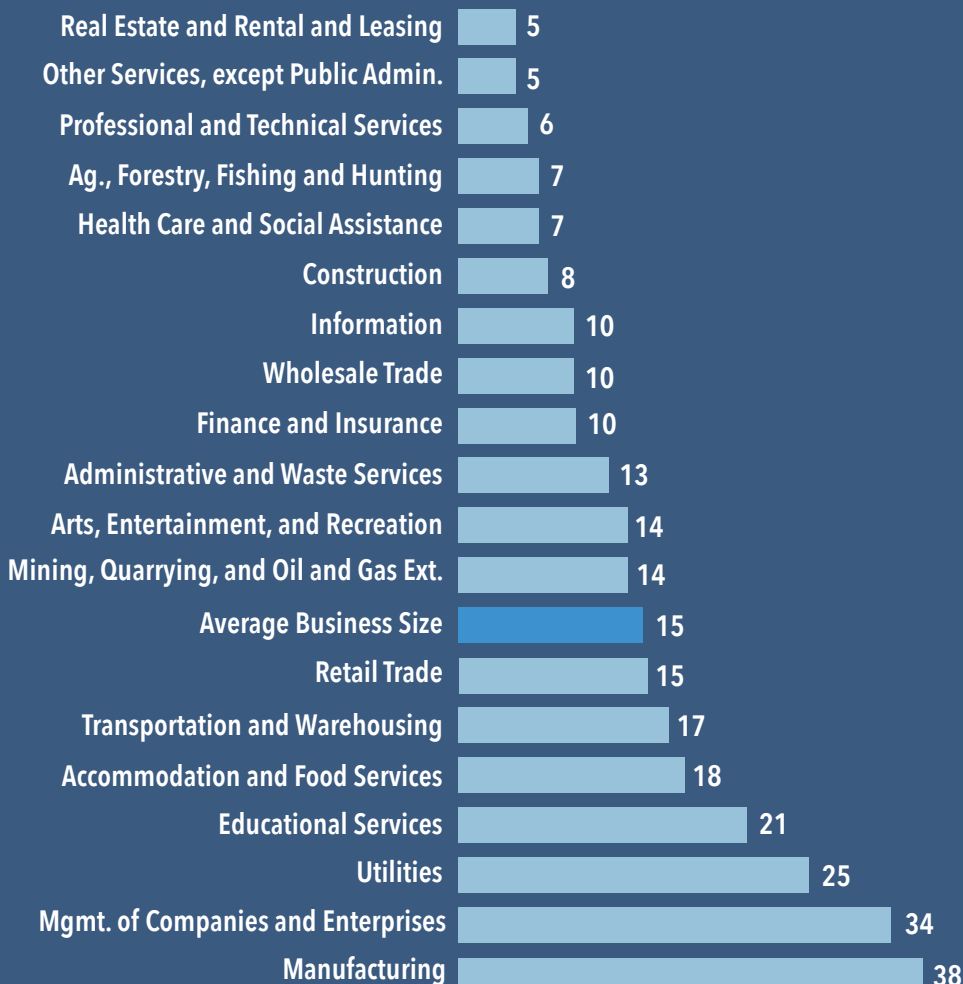


BUSINESS SIZE	EMPLOYMENT CHANGE 21-22
1000+	-4,381
500-999	9,246
250-499	6,592
100-249	14,072
50-99	19,427
20-49	21,290
10-19	9,162
5-9	2,483
1-4	9,070

TOTAL: 86,962

AVERAGE SIZE OF BUSINESS BY INDUSTRY

The average business size was **15 employees** in the first quarter of 2022. Two industries had an average employment of more than 30: *Manufacturing* with **38 workers** per establishment and *Management of Companies and Enterprises* with **34 workers** per business. *Utilities* and *Educational Services* industries also had higher average employment with **25 and 21 workers** per establishment, respectively. *The Real Estate and Rental and Leasing* and *Other Services, except Public Administration* had the lowest average employment with **five workers** per business.



NOTES:

Data Sources: This report uses 2022 first quarter data for Missouri, private, all industries and all employees in all establishment sizes from the Quarterly Census Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/cew/>

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) monitors business sizes through unemployment insurance accounts established in the state.

*Even though annual data is available for employment size counts (page one), first quarter is used for data congruency, keeping in view the multi-source availability subjected to only first quarter release at the time of this document. Business data is derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, a cooperative program between the Bureau of Labor Statistics and state labor market information centers. Non-employer businesses, such as sole proprietors, are monitored through a U.S. Census program that uses administrative data, chiefly IRS returns, to develop statistics. Non-employer businesses account for less than 4 percent of all sales but do account for the largest number of businesses. More information is available at:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/surveys-programs.html>

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics.html>

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